

REMARKS

Claims 1, 13, 15, 21, 23, 35, 37 and 39 are amended herein. Claims 1-41 are pending and under consideration.

Regarding the drawing objections, claim 19 recites the pickup units are disposed in a circular area having the same radius of the disk. Thus, the boundary of the area is the radius of the disk. Present Fig. 5b shows the units within such an area. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The rejections based on Watanabe and Guzik are respectfully traversed. Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites the pickups being at a same radial distance from a center of the disk so that the pickups held by corresponding ones of the pickup transferring units are inspected at once according to a same reading operation.

The Examiner admits that Watanabe does not teach these features, but instead relies upon Guzik. However, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's combination is not proper. The Examiner purports to modify Watanabe to include same radii. However, Watanabe specifically teaches that the magnetic heads having the same radius r "cannot be adopted." Specifically, when one head device records and another reads at the same radius, recording/reading cannot be achieved with reliability. Watanabe, col. 2, ln. 19-26. Thus, the reference itself teaches away from using same radii in connection with the invention disclosed therein.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner states that Guzik solves this problem by having the heads perform different functions. However, according to claim 1, the pickups are inspected according to a same reading operation.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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